

Riffed

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additional material
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version 2

cast

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INT. Modern Office, Day

A man in his mid twenties is holding court beside a few of his young colleagues. They are all wearing red raincoat type jackets. We watch as he gives them a pep talk on how to sell

P.J

Okay lads there's only one thing I'm gonna say to ye and thats sales lads. Sales lads that's all we want. We're not going out here for tea and biscuits lads.

We want sales, we don't them calling the office, we don't them thinking about it.

You have the special offer so lets get selling lads. Just tell your customer the truth.

You are here to save them money, simple as that.

I know what you're thinkin lads fuckin culchie what does he know?

Sales lads thats what I fuckin know.

I made three grand in November, November lads, what did your da make in November lads? I got a friend he plays for Nottingham Forest fuckin' reserves lads.

He didn't make three grand.

Sales lads that's what it's all about.

Now you might see the heads in here delighted that they're in this office

with their own desk. Wrong lads they're no good, telesales is finished lads.

Nobody buys anything over the phone.

Now we're gonna round the corner for coffee and a muffin, two euro lads.

You want something else, grand go for it, personally I don't like to start the day

by spending money. I'm more into making money. I'm gonna make some fuckin money today lads, why don't you join me? Sales lads, that's fuckin it.

Okay let's go.

TITLE CARD. Riffed

A young man(MICK) is taking down Christmas decorations in a large office. Mick is wearing industrial clothing. He is soon joined by another man(LOUIS) who's wearing business like clothes.

Mick

What's the story man?

Lewis

Alrigh.

Mick
Happy new year.

Louis is taking off his coat and so is a bit distracted. It takes him a moment to reply.

Lewis
Huh? Oh yeah, same to you pal.

Title card: January 5th 2009

A look around the room shows us that a few people have already arrived for their day in the office. They are busy at work, either on the phone or arranging their desk for the day ahead. We see a young lady on the phone, quietly and efficiently going about her business.

CLAIRE
...okay that's grand. And can you repeat the reference number to me?

Just as she asks, a man(BEGLEY) wheels his bicycle past her desk, turning around to offer her a wink. Miriam shakes her head and smirks. She goes back to her call without skipping a beat.

A slightly older woman SANDRA has to dodge BEGLEY as he passes.

SANDRA
Is that want Santa brought you then?

BEGLEY
Ye won't get these in the North Pole love!

Sandra lets him pass and returns to her seat. We can overhear her colleague in conversation beside her.

SEAN
What we can offer is a ten month payment plan. That's actually the most popular package because you get the first two months free of charge-
Yeah, yeas,yeh-

Muireann looks on at her colleague, distinctly unimpressed. You can kind of tell Ian is going through the motions.

SEAN
Well it's very competitive. Hmm?
Well yes, ye- Okay well, yeh-
Well look you don't have to decide now,
have a think-

fade in

MARIA

Yes our ten month deal is probably the best value
plan at the moment-

cut to:

Int. Gents toilet. Same

BEGLEY is prepping himself in the mirror. He seems to be a bit of a perfectionist. In the background an older gentleman(Dunlop) heads into a cubicle.

BEGLEY

Alrigh' Jim lad?

DUNLOP

(mumblin)

Ah yif fuckity fuck-

Cut to:

INT. CANTEEN. same

A man in his late thirties(Glenn) helps himself to a cup of tea. He looks more authoritative than the others.

Cut to:

EXT. Glenn's Office, Same

Glenn returns towards his office, stopping for a moment to take a look at the busy staff before going inside. He sits down at his desk and we can see it doesn't have much on it. In fact the only eye catching article is a small sports trophy on the cabinet behind him. Glenn relaxes into his seat, quickly glancing at the Irish Times. He allows himself a yawn and a stretch.

Cut to:

INT. Main Office, Same

One of the younger guys(Corby) is on his mobile phone. Suddenly his eye is drawn to the main door. There he sees a young woman. His expression indicates she is unfamiliar to him. The young woman(TAMMY) walks quite purposefully towards Neil's

office.

Cut to :

Int. Neil's Office, Same

Glenn is staring blankly at his screen. The quick knock on his door is a bit of a surprise too

GLENN
Eh yeah?

The door opens back revealing Tammy.

GLENN
Ah hey there-

TAMMY
Not a bad time is it?

GLENN
No, eh no-

Tammy invites herself in. And then invites herself to sit down across from him.

TAMMY
Well nice to see you so fresh Neil!
Have a good Christmas?

GLENN
Wha? Oh sorry yeah thanks. I was trying to think
of something there, sorry. Here-

Neil stands up to offer her a seat but she's already just about in the chair.

TAMMY
Thank you! Well, phew.

Awkward pause

GLENN
Eh?

TAMMY
Right! You are wondering where dad is.
Well he couldn't make this one I'm afraid.
Said I should take the reigns-

Tammy opens her briefcase/bag. She pulls out what seems to be a report of some kind.

TAMMY

Damn, now where's my pen?

GLENN

Em. So he won't be here?

TAMMY

Have you got a pen there? Ah you do-

Tammy spots a biro on the desk and helps herself.

TAMMY

Great!

(talking to herself)

just have to fill this in. Hmm sorry?

(then to Neil)

No, not this time. Why was there something specific you wanted to chat with him about?

cut to:

The office floor. Not really a hive of activity. The odd telephone hums gently and is picked up. Some of the staff chat amongst themselves. Lorna and Rachel are having a little natter over their partition.

DENISE

And did you keep the receipt?

RACHEL

Wha?

DENISE

The receipt for the jeans

RACHEL

No sure, they were on sale!

DENISE

Oh I see!

CUT to:

Ext, Elevator, Hallway, Same

An imposing figure(EDDIE) steps out from the lift. His sunglasses are maybe a bit out of season but he's carries himself so well you'd imagine he probably wears them at night too.

Eddie has huge headphones on as well. We can overhear what he is listening to for a moment before arriving at his desk.

'the lift judders into life, slowly creeping up to the fourth floor. It's reaches its destination and spits me out. I pause, exhale loudly, my shoulders slumping as I proceed to the door. I swipe myself and enter my place of work. The call centre is neatly layed out, uniform rows of desks occupied by drones wearing headsets. It's only nine o'clock and busy already..'

Eddie looks like a man of ritual. He doesn't rush himself. He slowly takes off his coat and puts it on his chair, his headphones still on.

'Holly, who sits next to me, is leaning back in his chair, clicking his pen over and over while he tries to get payment details from someone on the other end. He gives me a thumbs up by way of greeting.'

Eddie removes his personal headphones and fixes his hair slightly.

Watching all this is his nearest colleague Holly. Holly is maybe a little bit older but not much. He seems very relaxed in his surroundings, his fingers clasped behind his head as he swings happily in the chair.

Hugh is on the phone but he has a headset. The person on the other end of the line has his minimm amount of attention.

HOLLY

Okay, now I'm goin' to
have to put you on hold,
one moment please!

Holly immediately turns his attention to Eddie

HOLLY

Boom! Superstar!
What's goin on?

Eddie offers little enthusiasm

EDDIE

Hey Hugh, how are you?

HOLLY

It's a New Year Eddie. I am
fan fucking tastic!

And even I wasn't
I wouldn't admit it!

EDDIE
Good man.

Eddie puts on his work headset now, once again blocking out the surround sound.

" I pick up my date stamp, adjusting it to today's date. Another day of my life slipping away on that inky wheel. I stare at my screen and see there's 46 customers I have to cold call before lunch. As motivational tools go it's a doozy. Nothing more reassuring to know when you've finished that first call you 45 more of the bastards are waiting for you."

Eddie dials a number.

EDDIE
Good morning may
I speak to a Mister Gerard Kelly
please?

Cut to:

Int. Glenn's office.same

TAMMY
It's not good news I'm afraid.

GLENN
What?

TAMMY
We're shutting down the Dublin operation.

GLENN
Down?

TAMMY
There has been issues since even before
last summer. I think you know what I'm
referring to. The board met back last August
and said they'd give it til Christmas to see
if it got better. It hasn't.

Glenn looks genuinely shocked

CUT TO:

INT. Main office.same

We scan the room, almost spying on the various members of staff.

MARIA

Well you'd actually save a fair
bit if you could manage a one
off payment. Hmm, yes, yeah.

GLENN

(voiceover)

But we're doin well-

TAMMY

(voiceover)

That's a matter of opinion.

(cont'd)

Records say retention is down twenty five percent
since October. Not to mention overheads
and rental on this place.

There's a lot of companies over here that
are paying over the odds for Irish staff.

There's no value for money any more.

Looks like you priced yourself out of the market.

GLENN

So where to now, New Dehli is it?
Extort some Indian college graduates
and -

TAMMY

(interrupting)

Does it really matter?

We stop at a cubicle we haven't been at before. A young
woman(Maria) is chatting to her nearby friend(Alan). She has just
hung up the phone

MARIA

Jesus, what a bitch!

MERVIN

Who?

MARIA

This one on the line, Ruth Masterson. Well fuck you, Ruthy!

MERVIN

Haha, that's the crazy one from Clonsilla

MARIA
How do you know?

MERVIN
Sure she rang me there before Christmas. Asked me
to send out an information pack.

MARIA
And did you?

MERVIN
No, she's 73. I told her that she wasn't
eligible anyway.

MARIA
Ah here now.

MERVIN
Well, I could've sent it out, just
so she'd had something to read.
But it'd be no good to her.

MARIA
Poor woman.

MERVIN
It's all ahead of you my dear.

Cut to; Neil's office

Neil stills appears in a state of shock.

TAMMY
You can't honestly sit there
trying to persuade me that this office
is worth keeping. Give me some credit.

Neil doesn't know what to say

TAMMY
J.J, my dad, has arranged a pretty good
package for some of the long term staff.

CUT TO;

Int, Main Office.same

We cut to a few of the male staff surrounding Robbie's desk. They're obviously looking at something humourous on his monitor

cut to:

Eddie's desk.

Eddie has got down to doing some work. Katie pops over to say hi.

KATIE

Hi Eddie! Happy New Year

EDDIE

Oh heya! Yeah same to you.

KATIE

You look tired, are you still recovering
from New Year's?

EDDIE

New Year's? No no, that was an
early night that one.

KATIE

But I thought you had your thing
that night no?

EDDIE

Na, no eh, my thing didn't work out so-

KATIE

W-what do you mean?

EDDIE

Ah just that's the way it goes ye know?
How are you anyway?

KATIE

Grand, well apart from this toothache
I have.

EDDIE

Oh yeah?

KATIE

Yeah it's just in the cold weather now.

EDDIE

Right, did you go to the dentist?

KATIE

Hmm? Yeah, but it's expensive you know?

cut to

Lewis's desk

A few of the lads are huddled around the desk, checking out something 'interesting' on screen.

LEWIS

Lads sit down!

HOLLY

How come you can access the internet ye cunt!

Jordan mimics Louis' strong Dublin accent.

LEWIS

Keep it down will ye!

HOLLY

Some bag of shite isn't he Corbo!?
You allowed look at this stuff?

Corbo or Corby as he was christened, forces a smile. It's pretty obvious the other lads aren't impressed by him. rubs his hands into his eyes trying to focus on his monitor. It looks like he is working on a story.

A DAY IN MY FUCKING HATEFUL LIFE by Corby Gavin

We can see he's a few paragraphs in already.

-V.O

Tammy and Glenn are still talking away.

TAMMY

(voiceover)

Now others may not be so lucky.
You have eighteen here right?

GLENN

(voiceover)

Nineteen, eh Robbie started in November there.
Not including the lads on field sales.

Cut back to Glenn's office:

Tammy is flicking through personnel files

TAMMY

Nineteen. Well I know this won't
be easy for you but-

GLENN

Oh do ye yeah?

TAMMY

It just no longer makes sense
to keep going.

GLENN

So we're gone, just like that.

TAMMY

Look we could go round in circles all day
but it won't change anything.

GLENN

Well I think it's a mistake, there's some good people here.

Cut to:

Robbie leaning back in his chair yawning.

Denise bites her nails and Holly picks his nose whilst on the
phone.

Eddie is at his desk cleaning up. He dumps a load of flyers for a
New years music gig in the bin.

TAMMY

You might be right. And with your help
they may yet stand a chance-

Tammy trails off, again looking at her notes

GLENN

Well they'll need more than a
bleedin' reference.

Tammy belligerently hushes Glenn as she scans her notes

TAMMY

Ssssh!

GLENN
Don't shush me!

TAMMY
Glenn, please.

Tammy looks at her notes again

TAMMY
So yes, some might. Yes there maybe
opportunities to stay within the company.
If they are willing to re-locate.

GLENN
Re-locate? Where.

Tammy looks at him.

TAMMY
We've arranged a smaller office to deal with the
remaining Irish customer base.
How ever long that will last-

NEIL
Where's that?

TAMMY
Em, Sag-art. Is that how you pronounce it?

Glenn tuts and rolls his eyes.

TAMMY
It's the best we can do I'm afraid.
To be honest there's only four spots, maybe five.
Mainly for accounts-

checks her notes

TAMMY
Now, let me check-

CUT TO:

Maria and Mervin's desk, Same

MARIA
He just freaks me out!

MERVIN

Oh he freaks you out does he?
Oh my!

MARIA

(laughing)
Fuck you! Look I just
wanted to have a bit of fun.

MERVIN

Yeah well, you know
maybe he didn't feel like that?

MARIA

Well then-

MERVIN

Look sorry are we through doing you? Cos I've a lot
more to get off my chest and it's nearly ten o'clock-

MARIA

You think you're really funny!

MERVIN

Oh I got mad skills. Hardly seems fair
those frauds getting paid to do stand up-

Maria is looking up something on the screen.

MARIA

This guy is never going to pay.

MERVIN

That's not your problem.

MARIA

Yeah, well-

Looks at the envelope beside him

TAMMY

Was that another 'I quit' letter?
J.J told me about them.
How many is that now that you never sent?

She stands up

TAMMY

This place is gettin a rif Glenn.

Quick shot of Glenn looking at his 5 a side trophy

TAMMY

(continued)

And it's not before time.
Just count yourself grateful
my dad is such a kind man. Here.

Tammy pushes an envelope over towards him.

TAMMY

It's details of the redundancy.
You can expect two final payments into
your bank over the next two months.

He takes it but doesn't open it, instead putting it on his
keyboard, face up

GLENN

So that's it?

TAMMY

That's it. I have a flight at 8pm tonight.
I am going to be back at close of business today
and find out who you've decided to keep.

GLENN

What if I refuse?

TAMMY

That'd be just like you wouldn't it?
Do it for J.J, do it for them.

CUT TO:

Denise & Rachel's desk.

Rachel is still full of chatter.

RACHEL

Ah me head is wrecked Denise.

DENISE

Is it yeah?

RACHEL

Yeah aw I need another holiday.

(looks down at her feet)
Here are you not finished that?

Begley has seemingly offered his services

BEGLEY

Rachel, dear. As soon as you learn how to reboot a computer properly, you won't have to impose on the likes of me.

RACHEL

Maybe you need a reboot up da hole now, wha?

Rachel is delighted by her own wit. Begley comes back up

BEGLEY

Ah there now, all done. Some smell down there but, you wanna get that seen to!

RACHEL

Fuckin cheek!

In the background we see Tammy has just left Glenn's office. Once again she makes no eye contact or communication with the staff. Instead they look on, wondering who the mystery woman was.

CUT to:

Int, Glenn's Office.same

Glenn still seems in shock in his office. He tears open the envelope Tammy gave him. He scans it quickly, crumples it up and throws it away. After a long searching look around the room he sits up and opens his door.

CUT to:

Sandra's desk, same

Sandra is on a call.

SANDRA

Well now if you didn't have the correct address

you probably should've called us right back
shouldn't you?

(Pause)

What do I think? Well it's not up to me to speculate Paddy
but I would say that you got the call at half past four on
Christmas Eve when you were on your way home.

It wouldn't take a genius to figure out
what you did next now would it?

Sean is sitting beside her, half listening, half reading the
newspaper.

SANDRA

What do I suggest Paddy?

Well if I were you I'd maybe
start by calling the man to apologize.

(pause)

I've already apologized on the behalf
of the company and yourself. If you believe
that to be sufficient well that says a lot
about you now doesn't it Paddy?

(pause)

Good day to you sir.

SANDRA hangs up.

SANDRA

What sort of fuckin reprobates
have we got workin for us at all?

(Looks over at Sean)

Says me asking the chap
with the newspaper.

SEAN

I know, I'm scum.
Mother always said it.

Rachel comes over to his desk and sits on the edge of his desk.

RACHEL

(faux weariness)

Hi Sean.

SEAN

(more faux weariness)

Hi Rachel!

RACHEL

Are ye busy there hun?

SEAN

Well I am but if you need
somethin done-

RACHEL

Ah you're a star. Here
I'm a bit behind on these
two folders.

SEAN

Okay? How far behind?

RACHEL

Not too far-

SANDRA smiles. She looks around the room for a second. Spots Lewis
chatting with Claire.

Cut to:

BEGLEY's Desk, same

Begley likes to settle himself into his chair properly. His well
built physique suggests he knows a thing or two about posture. He
types for a moment before reaching for his mouse. A second later
his face is one of horror

BEGLEY

No way

PETER

What's up?

BEGLEY

Ah fuck sake. No fuckin way!

BEGLEY is still at his screen in disbelief

BEGLEY

Some shit that is. Nice one Glenn,
you just talked us out of a another
perfectly good deal.

PETER

What's up?

BEGLEY

Them coppers. Trainee gardai. I had them all in for a special rate before Christmas. Twenty eight of them. Don't even want to think how much that was worth.

PETER

Are ye serious?

BEGLEY

He's fuckn killin us. Remember I asked him to leave the increase off until March? Well he didn't. And now they're after going with someone else. This chap doesn't have a clue!

Cut to:

Int, Main Office.same

Claire is standing at the filing cabinets. Lewis looks sheepish.

LEWIS

Are we good then-

CLAIRE

Yes, Lewis that's what happened okay?
Look no harm done-

LEWIS

Cool cos I felt bad about it.

CLAIRE

Don't worry, really.

LEWIS

It's just that you weren't here to ask..

CLAIRE

No Louis I was at home with pnemonia. But thanks!

HOLLY suddenly pipes up

LEWIS

Ah here!

CLAIRE

What do you want me to say?
Look it's done now, you
got the quota, I didn't.
Well done, can I go now?

HOLLY appears from behind the cabinets

HOLLY
What are you two
talking about back there?

Claire gets frustrated and leaves

LEWIS
Ah will ye wait!
Thanks Holly!

HOLLY
Okay buddy!

We see Claire sitting back down at her desk. She composes herself. Out of the corner of her eye, she can see Maria trying to get her attention. Maria is mouthing the words 'Are you okay?'. Claire assures her that she is.

INT. GLENN'S OFFICE.SAME

KATIE
Yeah I'm findin' it grand you know.
It's nice dealing with the public

NEIL
Yeah yeah. Now you started in June last was it?

KATIE
No I was April actually

GLENN
(*checks notes*)
April? April.
Ah yeah sorry my mistake.

KATIE

Yeah no worries.
I was thinkin' nobody remembers
I'm here sometimes.

NEIL

Ah no, nothin' like that.

KATIE

Yeah I hope I'm not expendable.
I mean I know things aren't great at the
moment but-

Glenn has a very weak poker face

KATIE

Oh okay. I see. That's it.

GLENN

Ah hold on a second.

KATIE

(turns and shouts angrily)
Bollocks!

Katie has just realised she raised her voice. In a vain attempt to turn back time, she covers her mouth.

CUT to;

Int. Main Office.same

But she was heard alright. All heads are looking at Glenn's office door. They look around at each other quizicilly before going back to work.

Cut back to:

Int. Glenn's office.same

Katie has just realised the error of her ways.

KATIE

(whispers)
I'm really sorry

Glenn just nods. All he can think of now is trying to keep this whole thing under control.

GLENN

Look we'll eh, talk about this later yeah?

KATIE

So what does that mean?

GLENN

Look Katie, later okay?

She accepts that and leaves.

CUT TO;

Maria and Mervin's desk, same

Mervin watches Katie sit down quietly beside them. She utters not a word. Maria and Mervin shrug at each other. In the distance they see Corby walking towards Glenn's office.

Maria goes back to her email.

It's from Claire and it reads

re: Lewis, it's not what you think. Chat later C

Maria looks over at Claire, confused. she purses her lips in the international sign of stay quiet.

Cut to

Sean's desk;

SEAN

Alright?

LEWIS

Wha? Yeah. I think
that's our friendship fucked
though.

SEAN

Ah ye did what you had to.

LEWIS

Yeah still though.

SEAN

Have you thought anymore about
the other thing?

LEWIS

Yeah, we're gonna need three at least.
It's too ropey with just the two
of us.

SEAN

Right. Well any thoughts on who
that might be?

Both scan the room

LEWIS

Dunno man. Pretty fuckin slim
pickins if you ask me.

Int. Glenn's office.same

GLENN

Well, eh Good Christmas?

CORBY

I don't eh celebrate Christmas. Jehovah.

GLENN

Oh really! Jesus you're better off wha?
So you're gonna be a writer then?

CORBY

I am a writer.

GLENN

Have you got anything printed yet?

CORBY

I shall share my words
when the moment is right.

GLENN

Well good luck with it.
I tried years ago but-

CORBY

You failed?

GLENN

Yea-

CORBY

You failed because you quit

GLENN
Suppose.

CORBY
No suppose Glenn. You're either the bat or the ball.
I see the way that woman came in here this morning.
Like she owned the place.

GLENN
She actually kinda does own it?

KYLE
You miss the point.
She is a slave by another colour.
But she retains some control.
What do you control?

GLENN
Ah here Corby, I'm still your boss mate.

CORBY
You are a slave.
Slave! Slave! Slave!

The words rattle the walls of Glenn's office and beyond. Everyone stands up to find out what's going on.

Cut to:

Int. Eddie's desk,

Eddie is on the phone.

EDDIE
Well I should have it for Friday for you.
I know it's a lot of money Sean yeah.
Yeah. Well look I didn't expect the band's
van to break down did I? Yes, Sean.
Sure what am I gonna do, leave the country?
Right yeah go on. Thanks bye.

Eddie takes a huge sigh and hangs up.

Glenn tries to block it out, instead calling in Rachel next.
Denise watches as her friend goes up to head office.

Rachel smiles back at her

cut to;

PETER hard selling.

PETER

The best way of payment?
I'd say it would be our 10 month plan.
Well yeah it's the most popular because
you actually get two months free-

GLENN and RACHEL'S SCENE

Back in head office Neil talks with Rachel.

GLENN

Now I know you must be worried.

RACHEL

Worried? Why?

GLENN

Nothin' has been decided yet.

RACHEL

Right yeah.

GLENN

You've been here for four years so
you'll definitely be entitled to-

RACHEL

Would you stop Neil will ye?

GLENN

Huh?

RACHEL

Sure you're not gonna sack me, ye mad thing!

GLENN

It's not sackin-

RACHEL

Whatever, look yer not gettin rid of me.

GLENN

Well I-

RACHEL

Neil. Lookit ye!

You're shakin aren't ye?

She leans in over the desk

GLENN

(laughs nervously)
Ah piss off Rach will ye!

RACHEL

Glenn, I always liked you.

GLENN

Ah don't start.

Cut to:

Int. Main office.same

The rest of the office are seemingly copping onto this. Corby has cleared his desk.

LEWIS

What's up with you Corby?

CORBY

Why don't you ask
that sycophant in there

LEWIS

Sick-who?

CORBY

Sycophant Lewis. It's
a word. It means a weak being.
One who seeks favour from their
superiors by kissing arse.

LEWIS

Neil's a sycophant.

CORBY

Yes Lewis.

LEWIS

Right so well. Keep in touch

CORBY

Let's be honest, we're
not goin to keep in touch are we?

Why don't we just say what we feel?

LEWIS
Okay then fuck off!

Soon little meetings are taking place between groups, rumours and murmurs begin.

SEAN
Here have you seen Jim Dunlop at all this morning?

Cut to:

Int. Gents toilet, same

Dunlop asleep in the toilet, oblivious to the outside world

Cut to:

Int. Glenn's office.same

Glenn turns away and starts fiddling with something on his desk

GLENN
Look at me, look.

Glenn finally manages to look at her

RACHEL
You're fallin' apart.

GLENN
I'm not fuckin' fallin' apart!
I fought for you's with her this mornin'.
She wanted everyone gone, everyone!

Rachel is a bit surprised at him raising his voice

RACHEL
Okay relax.

GLENN
(frustrated)
Rachel-

RACHEL

What?

GLENN

Ah I don't fuckin' know.

Long pause

RACHEL

Ah I think we'll leave it at that will we?

As Rachel leaves, Glenn stands up to follow her and beckon his next victim.

On the office floor it looks like anarchy.

BEGLEY

Can I have a word with you Glenn please?

GLENN

Not now Begley.

BEGLEY

When then?

GLENN

Wha-

Glenn can't even answer. No time! Everyone is down his throat in seconds.

They have all grouped in front of him demanding answers. Everyone wants to get their two cents in, Neil looks like he's gonna go mental.

Suddenly Sarah collapses

CLAIRE

Jesus Katie!

The others look on in shock as Katie gets help on the ground.

LEWIS

Get her a cushion or something.

CLAIRE

Just get back let her breathe okay? Katie, are you alright love?

Maria looks on, distinctly unimpressed.

KATIE

Sorry I don't know what happened there.

CLAIRE

You're fine, here just sit up slowly.

At the back of the office Denise sees Rachel coming back. Rachel winks at her.

RACHEL

I need a smoke after that.

Denise smiles but then returns her look to the rabble up near Glenn. She stands up and puts on her coat. She is either leaving or going for lunch.

GLENN

Okay okay. Can we all just sit down please?

Nobody is sitting down.

HOLLY

What the hell is goin on Glenn?

GLENN

Sit down please!

Now look I was told this morning
that we might have to make some adjustments.

CROWD

Whay do you mean adjustments?
What the fuck?

GLENN

One at a time jesus! Okay Mervin?

MERVIN

Hi yeah. Can you stop talkin to us like we're pricks please?

GLENN

Okay language now Mervin.

MERVIN

Whatever, fuck. Ok I get it.
(Adopts sarcastic tone)
Now then please would you mind

explaining the situation to us
minions who remain in the dark.

LEWIS

Yeah who was yer one
this morning, the blonde one?

GLENN

I never called you minions.

MARIA

Well still don't know what's goin on?

GLENN

Okay, okay.

(deep breath)

I have been told we have to shut down
the office.

CROWD

Hey, what!

GLENN

Okay, okay, alright

SEAN

We're fucked is what you're saying.

GLENN

Well, not everyone

Glenn tries to retain control of the office but it's hopeless. He eventually just gives up

GLENN

Okay listen! All I know is that some people are being retained.
Some! We'll discuss after lunch! I need to find out more!
Just....I'll be back soon

More heckling from the back

Glenn goes back inside.

HOLLY

This is. I am actually speechless

BEGLEY

That's a first

HOLLY

You got a problem?
Cos some of us aren't used
to being fired.

BEGLEY
I was never fired either mate

DENISE
Chill out Holly will ye?

HOLLY
And here it is

DENISE
Here what is?

HOLLY
You're just the help, so just back off alright?

SANDRA
You can't talk to her like that!

HOLLY
Aw shit not you as well.
Bunch of fuckin bra burners.

MARIA
Holly you better watch your
mouth pal.

HOLLY
Unfuckinbelievable. I bet it wasn't
like this in your day Dunlop

Dunlop comes to rest on the side of a desk.

DUNLOP
Holly, yer a clown, Shut up.

CANTEEN

Miriam is pacing the room her phone by her side. A quiet jingle indicates she's on hold. Muireann comes in.

SANDRA

You not having lunch Claire?

CLAIRE

Hmm? Eh no, I'm not really eating
anything at the moment.

SANDRA

Oh sorry of course. How have you been?

CLAIRE

(suspicious)

Grand yeah, why what have you heard?

SANDRA

Well I heard you were ill and-

CLAIRE

Well I'm fine now thanks.

DUNLOP is very much in 'bull in a china shop' territory. He is looking through the cupboards for something.

DUNLOP

Jesus is there no coffee now either? No!

SANDRA

Check the one over the fridge.

DUNLOP

It'll come as a relief to my palette
to not have to suffer this
ditchwater anymore

SANDRA

You don't like the coffee Jim?

DUNLOP

No I don't. But it serves
as a bit of a metaphor for this place,
goin' down the drain and all that.

SANDRA

Ah were not gone yet

DUNLOP

Ah catch yerself on woman!
It's done, over. Good night!

Thanks for the memories!
Sure we've seen all this before
haven't we?

SANDRA
I'm not as old as you Mark!

DUNLOP
Ah well.

CLAIRE is interrupted by her call finally getting been answered

OPERATOR
Hello how can I help you there?

CLAIRE
Hi, yes. Just hold on a second there

CLAIRE takes her call outside.

SANDRA
(*standing up*)
Well I don't think it effects you anyway JIm.
You haven't done a tap since last Easter.

SANDRA gets up to leave. JIM gives her a snarl

CLAIRE
Yes is that the mortgage accounts section?
Okay thanks yeah.

Cut to:

Int. Car Park, Same

Ian and Alan are sitting in the car

IAN
They've dragged this out for over
four months now.

BEGLEY
Four months man, shit.

IAN
Should've said somethin earlier.

BEGLEY
Yep

IAN

Havin' us in every day.
We should've been out there
sortin stuff out.

BEGLEY

You're right.

IAN

I can see where this is going anyway can you?

BEGLEY

Well obviously yes. But what now?

IAN

What now? I'll tell you what now.

Louis opens the back door and sits into the back seat

LOUIS

Have you told him yet?

BEGLEY

Told me wha?

IAN

No I was waiting for you.

BEGLEY

Okay boys, what's this then?

LOUIS

Well Clide the only reason
you're in this car right now is
because we trust you.

BEGLEY

(half confused)

Right?

Cut to:

Int.Ladies room, same.

Miriam is in the ladies. She has a cardigan on and she wraps it around her. SANDRA arrives in. It's a bit edgy for a minute.

SANDRA

Mirrors, they don't give you much to look forward to do they?

CLAIRE

Okay so do you think?

SANDRA

What? About this?
Oh we're fucked alright!

CLAIRE

God's sake. What now?

SANDRA

You want the truth?

CLAIRE

Yeah. Hit me with both barrels.

SANDRA

Well I think you're in the wrong job.

CLAIRE

What?

SANDRA

You wanted the truth.

CLAIRE

Where did that come from?

SANDRA

What's your pitch?

CLAIRE

My pitch?

SANDRA

Yes, your pitch. To the customers. What you're saying and how you're sayin it. Because it aint working.

CLAIRE

I didn't expect this.
It's a bit fuckin' harsh to be fair.

SANDRA

This place has been on life support for
six months and if the doors are closed
for good tonight, tomorrow morning
there'll be at least five more people out looking for work.
The same job as you. You better get used to harsh.

Back in the car..

IAN

We've been contemplating our next moves.

BEGLEY

Next moves yeah?

IAN

Yes. You want to tell him Louis?

LOUIS

Yeah-

BEGLEY

Tell me what lads? Are we goin' to rob a
bank or somethin'?

LOUIS

Not exactly. But we've been workin
on improving our severance.

BEGLEY

Oh yeah?

IAN

Yeah, Louis and I discovered a few things
over the last two months.
We think we might be onto something but we
need your help.

BEGLEY

Ah yeah I see.

(reaches for car doorhandle)

Good bye lads-

LOUIS

Hold on man now hear us out at least.

BEGLEY

Hold on nothin. Look I'm gettin out-

IAN

Ah wait on a second man will ye?

BEGLEY

What? No chance-

LOUIS

Na if he wants to go let him go.
In a mad hurry to get back upstairs and
see how many more contracts
we've lost since this morning.

BEGLEY

That aint my fault ye prick!

LOUIS

I know it's not. But you can either do
something about it or not.
You can either stand up to these
cunts or not. Free will man.

IAN

Listen to the idea first man, come on.

cut to:

int.Ladies. Same

CLAIRE

Look I'll admit I've been off
the boil, but those lads are
sneaky fuckers too

SANDRA

Don't mind about them.

CLAIRE

Well I kinda haveta. You're
here now asking me why
I didn't meet my numbers before
Christmas. I got sick and while I was
away they did me on call backs.

SANDRA

But sure you know what they're like.
You used to be like that too.

CLAIRE

Ah no. I was never that bad.
I wasn't!

(stressed)
Fuck! Ah just fuck it. Are you happy
with your life? Working here?

SANDRA
Eh I am actually. I don't think I'd
want to be selling anymore though.
Not because I wasn't good at it, I held my own.
You just know when it's time.

CLAIRE
I'd like to think I'm nearly done. But I don't have a plan.
Been doing this since, since I dropped out of college. Jesus.
So now I have two night courses, a useless
estate agent's licence and five years sales
experience in this place.

SANDRA
Wanna swap it for an Arts degree?

Louis has a piece of paper, explaining something to Clide. Ian
watches on.

CLAIRE
(voiceover)
What do you suggest now?

SANDRA
Well firstly, leave the cardigan at home,
you look like you own a dozen stray cats.

CLAIRE
Well thanks very much!

SANDRA
Oh come on now, sure my mother wouldn't
leave the house like that. Use what you have.

CLAIRE
So much for feminism.

Both laugh

CLAIRE
What'll you do then?

SANDRA
Me?

CLAIRE
I take it you won't be hauling Avon catalogues

around Leixlip any time soon.

SANDRA

I will in my shite! Myself and Finn have an apartment in Spain.
Enough money put away now.
Maybe start painting again,
help in my sister's cafe.

CLAIRE

Jesus, wow.

SANDRA

Wow nothing.

CLAIRE

Haven't been out of the country in two years.

SANDRA

You need to start living then you'll get your wow's.

MIRIAM

I think I've had enough living this decade.
Been partying for most of it.

BACK TO THE CAR...

BEGLEY

Well boys that's a fine scheme.
And who's gonna be playing the role
of the clown who gets caught?
Cos my dance card is full
let me tell you.

IAN

Ah hold on.

BEGLEY

Hold on nothin' I'm not a cunt, anythin I have I earnt.
It's industrial espionage youse are at. Mentalists!

IAN

We're doin whatever it takes.

BEGLEY

Whatever it takes?
Have you tried gettin out there?
Fuckin' recession! Bring it on,
bout time I had a challenge.

LOUIS

Oh yeah? Well tell that to your bird.

How long is she gone now?
Seven months is it?
Seven months pregnant.
And you Mr Tough Guy.
Make money anywhere wha?
Bring it on me bollix!
You'll be wiping the babies arse
with the Evenin Herald-

Clide goes for him, but it's an awkward angle. Ian pulls him back down.

IAN
Fuckin chill out!
Just chill the fuck out!

LOUIS
Okay okay!

BEGLEY
You need to watch yer mouth ye prick.
That's too far now right?

LOUIS
Haha okay! Don't get angry at me but!
How much you make last month?

BEGLEY
Fuck you prick!

IAN
Yeah come on guys now, lets get this down.
What we need to do right? Right?

Eddie is eating a pot noodle. Despite his efforts, his culinary experience is somewhat diminished by Hugh. He is very loud on the phone.

HUGH
(on phone)
Ten months! I tell you what,
I'll throw in a free pen how's that?
Well it's little Christmas tomorrow,
time to spread the joy. This place?
Naw they're all pricks! Well most of them.
I hear you brother, no money yep.
Broke as a joke. I hear ya!
Na you're not wasting my time at all.
Good day to you!

Hugh hangs up and turns to Kenny

HUGH

That there is the backbone of our nation Kenneth!
A man living in Naas with two children
and he's just lost his job.

KENNY

Yeah?

HUGH

Working for six years as a civil
engineer. Not even thirty.
That'll be us tomorrow.

KENNY

Bad

HUGH

Oh it's worse than that.
Government has really fucked us-

KENNY

Mmmm.

HUGH

You're a smart one Ken. No ties.
Wish someone had've told me not to buy a house.
It owns me now.

KENNY

Sorry man.

HUGH

Ah I'm like a broken record aren't I?

DENISE

Hey, what are you
doing here? Are you
not out on sales?

P J

Ah the lads were grand.
Don't need me holding
their hand. So how are you?

DENISE

Grand yeah-

PJ

It's just that I haven't heard from you since Christmas.

DENISE
(*smiling nervously*)
Wha?

PJ
Well. You know
I thought you'd be in touch like.

DENISE
Be in touch? Are you serious?

DENISE stands up and we can see she towers over him in height!

REPLACEMENT SCENE: ALAN ON MOBILE PHONE

"... well yea, of course I have the experience. You know I have the exp . . . forward you on a copy of my CV? Well sure, no problem . . . why are you asking about my qualifications? Eh, we were in college together! Right let me stop you there. The last time we spoke about this, I believe the phrase you used was 'shoe in'. Now you're talking about Human Resources developments and corporate restructuring! What do you mean it's complicated? I thought we were friends? You know I need this. I told you, this place is about to go tits up and I was counting on you to come through for me. Stop saying it's complicated! I'll tell you what fast becoming complicated, our friendship. Thanks for nothing pal!"

Mervin & Maria's desk

MERVIN
What I'd like to know is why J.J isn't here
himself today. My guess
is the police probably caught him
trafficking Russian schoolgirls into
London or somethin.

MARIA
Jesus well, there's a lot of mystery
goin on in here today.

That comment is a little too loud for KATIE to ignore. She peaks

over her cubicle wall.

KATIE
Have you got a problem?

MARIA
Excuse me?

KATIE
I asked you if you had a problem.

MERVIN
Eh hold on-

KATIE
You be quiet you henpecked fool!

MERVIN
Excuse me!

MARIA
Sarah relax will ye?

KATIE
Been talkin to Eddie at all?

MARIA
Ah now that's none of your business.

KATIE
I know it isn't. And yet you think it's
fine to snoop into my affairs.

Dunlop comes over to break up the quarrel. In truth it's only because he has a headache.

DUNLOP
Ladies, ladies please!

KATIE
Go away you cretin.
(To Orla)
Look over there.

KATIE nods towards a forlorn looking EDDIE

KATIE
You caused that.

MARIA
What? Fuck off Sarah.

KATIE

Don't believe me. Go on ask him.

EDDIE seems to be heading towards the canteen. MARIA tries to go back on the phones but she's too distracted now. She finally puts the phone on busy.

Denise is busy again working away. Rachel is in front of her.

RACHEL

Right I need a smoke.

DENISE

Another one?

RACHEL

Wha? I've only had two!

DENISE

Two!

RACHEL

Jesus chill out,
two yeah!

DENISE

Two since lunch!

RACHEL

Ha ha!

EDDIE is relaxing in the canteen, taking it all in.

MARIA

Are you okay?

EDDIE

Hmm. Yep.

MARIA

What did he say?

EDDIE

He didn't have to say anything. I'm gone.

I want to go.

MARIA
Look eh-

EDDIE
If you're gonna apologise again Orla, don't bother.
I can't handle anymore rhetoric today okay?

MARIA
What?

EDDIE
Look I know what you're gonna say.
Sorry I let you down. Bla bla bla. Got it.

MARIA
Well I just. I don't know

EDDIE
You actually don't know. You don't know
what you're doing with yourself do you?

MARIA
Eh what?

EDDIE
No, it isn't an insult. I know what I'm doing.
I'm gettin' nowhere either so whatever works.

MARIA
Look Ken. We're just different okay?
You take this music stuff really
seriously. I just wanted a bit of craic.

EDDIE
That's fine. We all want to have the craic.
This fuckin country and
it's desire to have the fuckin craic.
Have the craic and die.
Well it's a nice theory.
But I've been workin on my own.
Were you any good at maths in school?

MARIA
What?

EDDIE
Maths you know. Mathematics

MARIA

Eh?

EDDIE

I thought I was good.
Can still do all the out shots
for the darts in me head
(clicks fingers)
just like that.
But I always struggled
with Algebra. Logic

pause

EDDIE

Life is maths. You know I've been playing music
for roughly four hours a week for the last fourteen years.
That's about 5000 hours.
Now I've been working here 4 years
and that roughly calculates to be 7500
hours of whatever this is.

MARIA

Good maths.

EDDIE

Good maths. They say
you have to do something
for ten thousand hours before
you get any good at it.

MARIA

You're halfway there then.

EDDIE

Yeah. Maybe. Or maybe I've been wasting
my life doing things half arsed.
I used to think I had nothin in common with
the rest of you all. That I
could fuck off and do my own thing.

MARIA

You have a better chance than most.
Everyone here is tied down. They can't move,
what are they gonna do?

EDDIE

Fuck them! They wanted to join the rat race,
they can't start moaning when things go rotten.

MARIA

You know I've indulged you and your nonsense
ever since I started here.
You used to be a happy go lucky fella.
You're turning into a bitter prick!

EDDIE
Am I yeah?

MARIA
Yeah you are. It's actually really horrible to witness it.

EDDIE
This your new hobby now that you got sick of the
singing you wanna be some kind of counsellor?

MARIA
Tryin to talk to ye-

EDDIE
Well I am bitter. Just cos I'm not in debt up to my eyes
doesn't mean this country hasn't failed me, cos it has.

MARIA
Well fuckin' move then!

EDDIE
I can't move!

MARIA
Why fuckin not!

EDDIE
Because I'm a fuckin' fool! Because I believe in this country
and even though nobody fuckin' else does,
and there's no good reason to,
I believe in my fuckin self!

Montage of various staff trying to justify their jobs.

PETER
Well I've been here four years-

HOLLY
Five years

CLAIRE

Five.

SANDRA
Seven

MERVIN
Four

BEGLEY
Three years
Three and a half maybe.

PJ
I dunno eh two?

CLAIRE
Do I think I do a good
job?

SEAN
Eh?

BEGLEY
Are you serious?

SANDRA
Ah now Glenn

MERVIN
I am quite confident in my ability

LEWIS
Sure I'm practically running the kip
for ye!

HOLLY
Tssssk!

BEGLEY
My best attributes.

SANDRA
I would say hard working,

SEAN
I like to help my team

CLAIRE
I, eh, honesty?

PETER

I can motivate and manage.

BEGLEY

Putting up with this shit,
for a start

MERVIN

Jesus man, did you get these
questions off a website?

MARIA

I think I'm friendly, personable with everyone.

BEGLEY

This nearly over yet?

GLENN

You're particularly surly today Holly?

HOLLY

Sure I'm a breath of fresh air dont you know!
Na. Just gettin' used to feelin' unwanted. Surplus.

GLENN

Sorry?

HOLLY

Was home there for Christmas. Getting in the way.
The old fella is sick and my sister Florence Nighting-cunt
is looking after him. Holy jesus.
Hateful bitch, she's never moved out.
The sitting room is like some fuckin'
theatre with the poxy television playing
the lead role. (mimmicks) Sssh, this is startin!
Give it a fuckin' rest. Wouldn't even
let me take him out for a pint. Isn't that
great? The man's last Christmas and he can't even have a pint?

GLENN

Terrible man.

HOLLY

Ah well, he's better off fuckin out of it.
I'll try and get down to him again but-
Some fuckin life all the same.
Jimmy Stewart never lived in fuckin Carlow
that's for sure.

Glenn nods along

PETER

Well it's important to be professional.

SEAN

To be fair, I think we know who's performing in here and who isn't. You can see that yourself

LEWIS

Feel like sometimes I'm carrying people. Now I don't wanna mention any names, that wouldn't be right.

CLAIRE

I'm not goin to make any excuses-

MERVIN

Well you have to be pragmatic I get that. But do I think you should keep me on? I dunno, I mean if we're just talking here and you need people you can actually trust. I mean if it comes down to that?

GLENN

You know we are going to have to let some people go.

SANDRA

That's understandable

LEWIS

Do what you gotta do man, it's a tough gig.

SEAN

I'm, yeah, okay.

MARIA

Well if there's a way of me stayin on.

PETER

I don't know what I'm going to do.

SANDRA

Well I think, I mean I had an idea it was coming.

GLENN

Moving to Spain I hear, big step

SANDRA

Yeah, yep.

GLENN

Are you gonna be okay?

MICK

Wha? Yeah course I am?
Sure I got actual skills.
All these cunts do is talk
shite on the phone.

EDDIE & MARIA

EDDIE

I just wanted to create something new, I didn't
want to be a millionaire.
Never takin a risk like that again.

MARIA

Aw, yer a spa!

EDDIE

You're a cunt!

MARIA

I know!

MERVIN

(mumbles)

Yeah? Yeah.

Fuckin' Molly Ringwald
nonsense.

We come to DUNLOP

Glenn and Dunlop

GLENN

So?

DUNLOP

Yessum!

GLENN

I think you what
I'm gonna say

DUNLOP

No boss!

GLENN

Fuck sake Dunlo- sorry

Jim. Have you
tried gettin' any help?

DUNLOP
What help would you suggest sir?
Is there a customer service operator available
for my ailment?

GLENN
Look I told you in November to
go see a doctor. By rights
I could have you flung out of here.

DUNLOP
Am I upsetting the ambience
of this shangri-la then?

GLENN
Not that it matters much anymore.

DUNLOP
Ah yes, the messenger arrived this morning.

GLENN
She did.

DUNLOP
And she came with ill tidings too I gather.

Neil nods.

DUNLOP
Well I shant worry about all that mon frare.
In a few years time this country will
be run by the Germans, and we'll be
goose stepping our way to the dole office.

GLENN
Jim I-

DUNLOP
You think I'm gone in the head?
We modern Irish are but unwanted children, orphans of progress.
This nation will be forever dependent on the kindness
of our brethren. The teets are dry now and the
cupboards bare.
(stands up)
Good night Ireland fuckin Inc.
Turn off the light on the way out!

GLENN
End scene.

MERVIN goes to make tea. Maria and Eddie are hugging it out.

MARIA
Look if you want my honest opinion just don't
let it ruin your life. Ireland is just too small.
It's a numbers game maths guy!
You should know this.

DENISE and GLENN

GLENN
Hey you're last up.

DENISE
Am I yeah?

GLENN
Yeah. So-

DENISE
Long day for ya.

GLENN
Mmmn. Long enough.
(pause)
So you're here four years now.
November 2004-

DENISE
Yeah

GLENN
Well as you probably know at this stage we're having
to let some people go. Now I've never had any problem with
your work here. You're reliable and I'll be able
to give you a very strong reference. Plus there'll be redundancy-
Hey, you listenin? Lorna?

DENISE
The boys club not bein broken up then no?

GLENN
The wha?

DENISE

Out there. It's like a football dressing room or something. Some work environment.

GLENN

Ah its not. Anyway-

DENISE

You serious? Ah sure of course you'd say that. You're just as bad.

GLENN

I am? Ah listen now-

DENISE

Well you don't tell them to stop do ye?

GLENN

Look, I don't think it's that bad really is it?

DENISE

Well if you had to prove it wasn't that bad could you? I mean would you have any defence if someone accused you and the rest of the men in here from creating a hostile work environment.

GLENN

Ah I think you're going a bit over the top.

DENISE

Over the top? I'll tell you about over the top. You see I knew this place was finished months ago. So I got an email address for that Tammy woman. I told her I was keen on staying in the company but that I'd prefer a transfer to a more productive working area. She wanted to know why this place wasn't productive, so I told her.

GLENN

Told her what?

DENISE

I told her the truth. That all youse fuckers do all day is talk shite about horse racing and football and how many birds you score at the weekend.

GLENN

Why would you do that?

DENISE

Because Glenn, I don't like ye's.
You mightn't be as bad as them out there,
but the fact that you let it go on for so long
makes you just as guilty.

GLENN

I haven't heard anyone else complain. And I doubt I will at this
stage.

I would've appreciated you coming to me first to be fair.

DENISE

Well frankly I didn't think you were
capable of changing anything. Obviously
J.J's daughter Tammy feels the same way.

GLENN

Right well. I guess I'll say good luck to you.

DENISE

You not mad then?

GLENN

No. If you think your future lies here working with this family
of dubious morals and an even more dubious past,
I think wishing you good luck is the least I can do.
The company owes millions and J.J is gonna be
in jay jail by the summer, bank on it.

DENISE

No chance! That's fuckin bullshit!

GLENN

Ah now I don't think we need that
kind of language in this office now do we?
Close that door on the way out wontcha?

DENISE gets up and leaves.

Neil looks at his watch. Nearly 5pm. Tammy has arrived on time.

DUNLOP

Ah there she is now. The little bitch

TAMMY

Excuse me!

DUNLOP

I certainly will not, you, you trollope!

TAMMY

(To Glenn)

So I see you've dealt with things have you.?

GLENN

I don't know anymore.

HOLLY

J.J should've sent your sister,
I preferred her.

This gets a bit of a laugh. Alas Tammy does not take kindly to it.

TAMMY

Right! Holy is it?
Get your coat and fuck off!

Holly is in shock but it's enough to send shivers down the other's spine. He pulls his coat off his chair and takes a walk

TAMMY

Now then, anyone else
want to air their grievances?
Fine. Now Neil how are we looking
on those names.

GLENN

Eh yeah, I think I have what you need
in here, I'll just get it.

Cut to:

GLENN

Right eh, well I think you probably have a good idea
who is on this list.

TAMMY

I'd say so yes

GLENN

Maria in accounts,
Mervin in accounts,
Louis, sales,
Denise you know about

TAMMY

Denise yes, bright girl.

GLENN

Yeah, yes. And eh Rachel Crean, customer service.

TAMMY

Who?

Rachel-

GLENN

Yeah Rachel has been with us a good while now. She works on retentions.

TAMMY

Well I didn't want anyone from there

GLENN

Eh I just thought it would be good to have someone who knew what was going on.

TAMMY

I know what's goin on.

You're doing a favour for an old flame-

GLENN

Well no actually-

The chat is interrupted. There are noises coming from outside. Glenn and Tammy go to investigate

GLENN

Jesus what else?

RACHEL

Begley is after handcuffing himself to his desk.

GLENN

Wha?

RACHEL

I swear that fella is off his nut.

TAMMY

Get out of the way there. Come on stand back.

BEGLEY

Ah there she is. Might have known yer da would send someone else over to do his dirty work.

TAMMY
What's your name

BEGLEY
(mimmicks her)
My name sweetheart is Cliff
so don't walk off on me
(laughs)

TAMMY
Neil I think this man is drunk.

GLENN
I didn't think he drank.

BEGLEY
Well I do today chap.
Today is a day of firsts!

In Glenn's office meanwhile, Sean fumbles at Glenn's desk locker.
Lewis keeps a look out.

BEGLEY
Well as you can imagine
I am not down here
for the good of my health.
My calves are killing me sitting here like this
and yet I felt I needed to make
a stand, sorry sit, hahahaha, Jesus!

TAMMY
What is going on?
Why have you handcuffed yourself?

BEGLEY
Let me ask you somethin' little miss silver fuckin' spoon.
Has anything ever not worked out as you planned it?
I bet it hasn't, I bet it fuckin hasn't.
The world needs the poor to feed
the rich I get it.

While BEGLEY is giving a masterclass in insults, Ian continues to
take down notes from Glenn's office.

Everyone looks on at Begley's diatribe. But Claire sees Lewis
standing at Glenn's door. She is curious and decides to
investigate.

BEGLEY
I got screwed outta a six grand bonus

this morning because of you and
managements stupidity.
Management? What a joke,
couldn't fuckin manage a box of matches.
It'd be nice to think when you're
da is havin his brandy and cigars
that he might spare a thought for the
poor saps who made him his money.
But I doubt it, I fuckin doubt it!

CLAIRE goes over to GLENN's office. Lewis tries to block her path

LEWIS
Where are you goin?

MIRIAM
Get out of my way ye gobshite!

Claire barges past him and into Glenn's office where she sees Sean
up to no good

SEAN
What, what?

CLAIRE
Half.

SEAN
What?

CLAIRE
Half of whatever it is
you're stealing while
that fuckin pantomine
goes on outside.

SEAN
No no no.

CLAIRE
Yes yes. Half, or I'll tell
them. And then you'll
get worse than nothing.

SEAN
Okay, okay, grand now go away.

Meanwhile Begley is still at it.

BEGLEY
I'm just one man. But we need to

gird our loins people.
(stands up)
Come everyone and stand together.
Let's send a message to J. J Keegan
that we're not gonna take it anymore!

BEGLEY sees Lewis and Sean leaving Glenn's office and giving him the thumbs up.

BEGLEY
Will none of you stand by my side?
Not one? Well, they say you learn
soemthing new everyday. I'm sorry
I had to learn this today.

Gradually the crowd disperses.

GLENN
Are we done now?
Get the cuffs off come on.

BEGLEY frustrated, opens the lock of the cuffs.

BEGLEY
I'm free now aren't I?

Cut to:

Ext. Building, same

A sign is in the window now.

CLOSED

*any enquiries should be directed to 00 44 5763939 or
info@snm.co.uk*

cut to:

Int. Main office.same

The staff all pack up and start saying their 'good byes' and 'keep in touches' .

Orla and Alan's chat trails off.

MIRIAM
Keep in touch Muireann.

MUIREANN
You too. More than welcome
in Spain now!

MIRIAM
Yeah I might do that.

Hugh looks likes he won the olympics of something. Punching his fists in the air.

HUGH
Good bye to hell.
I never let the bastards
beat me down!

Kenny watches all this with his typical air of indifference.

Fuckin fame. Who needs it? Why am I chasing it? The last day in here and only now I realise it. People. All kinds, happy, sad, contented, depressed. Paying bills, forgetting to pay bills, getting into debt. Buying what you don't need. Wasting time to make money.

Not being good enough, accepting it, moving on. Life. Fuck it, fuck it up the arse, fuck it til it finally turns round and smiles back at you.

DAS ENDET

- Lorna comes in. She seems distracted somehow. But this is all a ruse. Within seconds she's on his case. She tells him that the interview doesn't matter because she already called Tammy before Christmas complaining about the work conditions in the office, the boys club and all that. She questions both him and the others, asking what kind of men work in an office for a living. Neil asks if she'd appreciate him more if he wore a lumberjack shirt and boots. Just before they go on there is a loud bang,
- they go outside Clide has locked himself to his desk.
- Neil tries to get everyone to calm down, fearing the place is about to descend into anarchy.

He tries talking to Clide but it ain't working.

- Almost on queue Tammy arrives back.
- Her presence is not greeted with much positivity.
-

DUNLOP

Well we're not unionised so they can
do whatever they like with us. That's
the reality.

HUGHIE

(Frustrated)

Would you give over?

DUNLOP

Tellin ye lads. I've seen this
before.

HUGHIE

What you've been sacked before?
Yeah I believe that!

DUNLOP

Ah well might you snigger young fella.

HUGHIE

I'm not a young fella mate!

DUNLOP

Well you might snigger mate! But we
are mere pawns now.

HUGHIE

You might be but I'm not. So
what if they sack me, I can
go some place else. What about you
old timer wha?

JOHN

Hughie will ye chill out!

HUGHIE

Na no fuck him. Mr Doomsday.
Sick of him now.

Dunlop throws his arms up in a zombielike fashion

DUNLOP

Beware beware! The youngblood
who tramples on graves shall never
have peace!

HUGHIE

I hope that prick sacks me now.
Just to get out of here.

ANNE IS WORRIED

LOUISE
Are ye alright Annie?

ANNE
Hmmn? Oh fine thanks love.

LOUISE
What do you think is going on?

Annie steadfastly works on, never breaking eye contact with the screen, typing like crazy.

ANNIE
I don't know